

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

Crim. Action No.: 1:21-CR-39-2
(Judge KleeH)

ASANTE JAMES,

Defendant.

ORDER ADOPTING MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
CONCERNING PLEA OF GUILTY IN FELONY CASE [DKT. NO. 43]
ACCEPTING GUILTY PLEA, AND SCHEDULING SENTENCING HEARING

On September 27, 2021, the Defendant Asante James ("James"), appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Michael J. Aloï and moved for permission to enter a plea of **GUILTY** to Count Two of the Indictment, charging her with Possession of Counterfeit Obligations, in violation of Title 18, U.S.C., Section 472. This Court referred Defendant's plea of guilty to the magistrate judge for the purpose of administering the allocution, pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11, making a finding as to whether the plea was knowingly and voluntarily entered, and recommending to this Court whether the plea should be accepted. James stated that she understood that the magistrate judge is not a United States District Judge, and James consented to pleading before the magistrate judge.

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Based upon Defendant James's statements during the plea hearing and the Government's proffer establishing that an independent factual basis for the plea existed, the magistrate judge found that Defendant James was competent to enter a plea, that the plea was freely and voluntarily given, that she was aware of the nature of the charges against her and the consequences of her plea, and that a factual basis existed for the tendered plea. The magistrate judge issued a *Report and Recommendation Concerning Plea of Guilty in Felony Case* ("R&R") [Dkt. No. 43] finding a factual basis for the plea and recommending that this Court accept Defendant James's plea of guilty to Count Two of the Indictment.

The magistrate judge **released** Defendant James on the terms of the Order Setting Conditions of Release. [Dkt. No. 10].

The magistrate judge also directed the parties to file any written objections to the R&R within fourteen (14) days after service of the R&R. He further advised that failure to file objections would result in a waiver of the right to appeal from a judgment of this Court based on the R&R. Neither the Defendant nor the Government filed objections to the R&R.

Accordingly, this Court **ADOPTS** the magistrate judge's R&R [Dkt. No. 43], provisionally **ACCEPTS** Defendant James's guilty

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plea, and **ADJUDGES** her **GUILTY** of the crime charged in Count Two of the Indictment.

Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(3) and U.S.S.G. § 6B1.1(c), the Court **DEFERS** acceptance of the proposed plea agreement until it has received and reviewed the presentence investigation report prepared in this matter.

Pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 6A1 et seq., the Court **ORDERS** the following:

1. The Probation Officer shall undertake a presentence investigation of James, and prepare a presentence investigation report for the Court;

2. The Government and Defendant James shall each provide their narrative descriptions of the offense to the Probation Officer by **November 8, 2021**;

3. The presentence investigation report shall be disclosed to Defendant James, counsel for Defendant, and the Government on or before **January 10, 2022**; however, the Probation Officer shall not disclose any sentencing recommendations made pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32(e)(3);

4. Counsel may file written objections to the presentence investigation report on or before **January 24, 2022**;

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5. The Office of Probation shall submit the presentence investigation report with addendum to the Court on or before **February 7, 2022**; and

6. Counsel may file any written sentencing memorandum or statements and motions for departure from the Sentencing Guidelines, including the factual basis for the same, on or before **February 14, 2022**.

The Court further **ORDERS** that prior to sentencing, counsel for Defendant review with her the revised Standard Probation and Supervised Release Conditions adopted by this Court on November 29, 2016, pursuant to the standing order entered by Chief Judge Groh, In Re: Revised Standard Probation and Supervised Release Conditions, 3:16-MC-56.

The Court will conduct the **Sentencing Hearing** for Defendant on **March 14, 2022**, at **2:30 P.M.**, at the **Clarksburg, West Virginia** point of holding court. If counsel anticipates having multiple witnesses or an otherwise lengthy sentencing hearing, please notify the Judge's chamber staff so that an adequate amount of time can be scheduled.

It is so **ORDERED**.

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The Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this Order to
counsel of record and all appropriate agencies.

DATED: October 25, 2021

/s/ Thomas S. Kleeh
THOMAS S. KLEEH
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE